

*Jim [unclear]  
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8  
999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 500  
DENVER, CO 80202-2466

SDMS Document ID



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Ref: 8EPR-SR

JAN 27 2003

George F. Chapman  
90 Trails End Dr.  
Kalispell, MT 59901

Re: Control AX-0208275-WH

Dear Mr. Chapman:

Thank you for taking the time to share your personal information and express your concerns about your very difficult situation as a result of exposure to asbestos. I would like to express my regret for the health problems that have resulted from your having worked in W.R. Grace's mining operation in Libby. The White House has asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to respond to the issues about asbestos contamination.

The Libby, Montana Superfund site is a top priority for the EPA. EPA has completed cleanup of the most contaminated areas - the former W.R. Grace processing centers. A huge screening effort was just completed, identifying over 1000 commercial and residential properties for cleanup. The cleanups have started and approximately 30 properties have already been cleaned up. EPA will continue to improve the speed and cost of cleanup and respond to the residents' concerns.

I would also like to address your concern about W.R. Grace transferring funds to avoid liability. The United States was one of the parties in a case alleging fraudulent conveyance of assets by W.R. Grace. The parties have reached an agreement in principle whereby Sealed Air Corporation will transfer to W. R. Grace more than \$500 million and nine million shares of stock for the benefit of W.R. Grace's creditors. We are also seeking to recover our cleanup costs incurred in Libby from W.R. Grace and are actively seeking ways to expand health care access to those affected by asbestos in Libby.

Again, thank you for your inquiry. Please feel free to call the Libby Superfund Project Manager, Jim Christiansen, at 303-312-6748 if you have any questions about EPA's actions in Libby.

Sincerely,

Max H. Dodson  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Ecosystems Protection and Remediation



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*Concurrence*



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1/23/03*



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